

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 CIAE-00 CU-02 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 AF-10

ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 OIC-02 SP-02

L-03 H-01 PA-01 PRS-01 AID-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00

OES-06 /096 W

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R 291509Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2263

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NESCO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AORG, OCON, UNESCO

SUBJECT: 102ND UNESCO EXECUTIVE BOARD: REPORT ON

SCIENCE ITEMS 5.2.1.1, 5.2.1.2, 5.2.1.3,

5.2.2, AND 5.2.3

1. THE FOLLOWING ARE BRIEF SUMMARIES OF DISCUSSIONS OF THESE ITEMS DURING THE BOARD MEETING. IN THE CASE OF THE INVITATIONS TO MEETINGS (5.2.1.1, 5.2.1.2, AND 5.2.1.3), A STATEMENT FOR THE RECORD WAS INCLUDED WITH EACH (AS IN THE 5.1 ITEMS) REQUESTING THE NGO'S INVITED TO BREAK OFF RELATIONS WITH THE CHIANG CLIQUE THE STATEMENT WAS INSERTED BY THE PRC WHEN THE FIRST INVITATION (EDUCATION SECTOR) CAME UP, WITH THE REQUEST THAT IT BE APPLIED TO ALL THE INVITATIONAL ITEMS. THIS ACTION, WHICH PRECEDED THE DISCUSSIONS OF THE SCIENCE ITEMS, WILL BE REPORTED SEPARATELY.

2. ITEM 5.2.1.1 INVITATION TO INTERGOVERNMENTAL CONFERENCE ON SPIN. APPROVED WITHOUT DISCUSSION.

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3. ITEM 5.2.1.2 INVITATION TO MINESPOL II. TWELVE MEMBERS TOOK THE FLOOR ON THIS ITEM, SEVERAL OF THEM TO STRESS THAT THE ROLE OF UNESCO SHOULD BE UNDERScoreD, OTHERS TO PROPOSE EITHER THAT LDC'S BE INVITED AS OBSERVERS OR THAT THE CONFERENCE SHOULD EMPHASIZE CO-OPERATION WITH LDC'S. THE DESIRABILITY OF COORDINATING MINESPOL II WITH THE UN CONFERENCE ON SCIENCE AND

TECHNOLOGY WAS NOTED BY PORTUGAL. THE DOCUMENT WAS THEN APPROVED WITHOUT CHANGE.

4. ITEM 5.2.1.3 INVITATION TO 5TH MEETING OF THE STANDING CONFERENCE OF THE DIRECTORS OF NATIONAL COUNCILS FOR SCIENCE POLICY AND RESEARCH OF THE LATIN AMERICAN MEMBER STATES. FOLLOWING SOME IRRELEVANT COMMENTS ON THE AGENDA BY LATIN AMERICAN MEMBERS AND SOME SUGGESTIONS FOR ADDITIONAL INVITEES, THIS ITEM WAS APPROVED.

5. THE US MEMBER DID NOT PARTICIPATE IN THE DISCUSSION OF THE ABOVE ITEMS.

6. ITEM 5.2.2 DRAFT STATUTES OF THE INTERNATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON EARTHQUAKE RISK. EIGHTEEN SPEAKERS PARTICIPATED IN THIS DISCUSSION, MAKING SUGGESTIONS RANGING FROM DEVOTING THE PROGRAM TO EARTHQUAKE PREDICTION TO FOCUSING IT ON RELIEF OPERATIONS (THE OBJECTIVES OF THE PROGRAM WERE OUTSIDE THE SCOPE OF THE SUBJECT UNDER DISCUSSION). THERE WAS OBVIOUSLY A GREAT DEAL OF MISUNDERSTANDING AS TO WHAT THIS SMALL (\$100,000) PROGRAM CAN DO AS WELL AS WHAT SCIENCE CAN DO IN PREDICTION AND PREVENTION OVER THE NEXT 10-20 YEARS. CHARACTERISTICALLY, THE U.S., THE PRC, AND THE USSR, THE ONLY NATIONS WITH SUBSTANTIAL PROGRAMS IN THIS FIELD DID NOT PARTICIPATE IN

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 CIAE-00 CU-02 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 AF-10
ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 OIC-02 SP-02
L-03 H-01 PA-01 PRS-01 AID-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00
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THE DISCUSSION (EXCEPT FOR THE USSR, WHICH AT ONE POINT MADE A BRAVE ATTEMPT TO GET THE DISCUSSION BACK TO THE SUBJECT AT HAND). CONSIDERABLE TIME WAS EXPENDED ON ARGUING ABOUT THE COMPOSITION OF THE 10-MEMBER COMMITTEE, BASICALLY BETWEEN THE EARTHQUAKE PRONE COUNTRIES WHICH FELT THEY WERE ENTITLED TO GREATER REPRESENTATION, AND THE AFRICAN NATIONS, WHICH WANTED TO BE REPRESENTED ON AN EQUAL BASIS EVEN THOUGH THEIR CONTINENT IS SEISMICALLY INACTIVE. AS A RESULT, PARAGRAPH 2 OF THE STATUTES WAS AMENDED TO READ THAT THE MEMBERSHIP SHOULD BE SELECTED ON THE BASIS OF SCIENTIFIC EXPERTISE AND FROM AREAS HAVING EXPERIENCE IN EARTHQUAKE DISASTERS. PARAGRAPH 1 WAS ALSO AMENDED TO BROADEN COOPERATION WITH UN AGENCIES TO INCLUDE BODIES OTHER THAN UNDRO.

7. ITEM 5.2.3 CARLOS FINLAY PRIZE. INTRODUCTION BY CUBA WAS FOLLOWED BY SUPPORTIVE STATEMENT BY US WHICH IN TURN TRIGGERED AN AVALANCHE OF SPEAKERS. IT ENDED WITH CUBA THANKING EVERYONE BY NAME, ADOPTION OF THE PROPOSAL BY ACCLAMATION, AND THE CUBAN REPRESENTATIVE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SHAKING HANDS WITH THE SUPPORTERS. ON A PROPOSAL BY BRAZIL, THE SELECTION COMMITTEE WAS ENLARGED TO 4, INCLUDING ONE FROM CUBA. FYI: BOTH SECRETARIAT AND MEMBERS OF THE BOARD ARE AWARE THAT IT MAY COST MORE TO ADMINISTER THE PRIZE THAN THE VALUE OF THE PRIZE ITSELF. PETERSEN OF FRG AT ONE POINT THOUGHT OF RAISING THIS POINT, BUT ABANDONED THE IDEA SINCE IT WOULD APPLY EQUALLY TO ALL PRIZES OF THIS TYPE. END FYI.

8. GENERAL COMMENTS: THERE WERE NO PARTICULAR COALITIONS FORMED IN THE DISCUSSION OF THESE ITEMS. EVEN THE TENACIOUS LATIN AMERICAN UNITY FELL APART ON OCCASION; ONLY IN SUPPORT OF AFRICAN VIEWS DID IT REMAIN SOLID. IRAN, WHICH HAD THREE ROTATING SPEAKERS, EXERTED A PARTICULARLY MODERATING INFLUENCE, WHILE LIPATTI OF ROMANIA FELL OVERBOARD REPEATEDLY IN HIS OVERT AND TRANSPARENT EFFORTS TO PLEASE THE PRC AND

THE AFRICAN NATIONS. CHAIRMAN EL-WAKIL WAS CAREFUL AND
EVEN-HANDED.
GAMMON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
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Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Review Event:
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Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2755089
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: 102ND UNESCO EXECUTIVE BOARD: REPORT ON SCIENCE ITEMS 5.2.1.1, 5.2.1.2, 5.2.1.3, 5.2.2, AND 5.2.3
TAGS: AORG, OCON, UNESCO
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/429f2aa2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009